value of a unit in a higher position is always 20 times the value of a unit in the next lower position, except in the case of the third place, where its value is only 18 times that of the second place.

In historical research and elsewhere, the mathematician seeks cordial cooperation with other scientists, and he regrets that the confusion of tongues, resembling the experiences at the tower of Babel, is making it more and more difficult to understand each other. In the case of scientists this confusion is mainly due to a rapid growth of language in various directions. May we not hope that as many theories which were supposed to be distinct suddenly exhibited profound connections, so also this extensive language will tend towards unity and simplicity as we see more clearly the fundamental underlying principles. Science knows no bounds in method or in subject-matter and the artificial limitations set by man for his own convenience in making a start must break down before the onward march of truth. All science is a unit and all scientific investigators should be inspired by their common interests.

G. A. MILLER

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

FORESTRY ORGANIZATION FOR THE WAR

A "FORESTRY regiment," made up of foresters, practical woodsmen, loggers, portable sawmill operators and others experienced in lumbering operations, for service in France, will, it is announced, be raised immediately. The Forest Service, at the request of the War Department, will prepare plans for the organization and equipment of the force and will aid in securing suitable men. The regiment will form a unit of the Engineer Corps now being recruited to be sent abroad as soon as it can be organized and equipped.

The organization of this regiment is the result of a suggestion made by the British Commission. Similar forces have been raised in Canada and are rendering valuable services. The object of the American forestry regiment, it is said, will be to convert available timber into material suitable for bridges, railroads, trenches and other construction work with the least possible waste. At the same time the cutting will be done under the supervision of technical experts in cooperation with the French foresters. In this way the permanent damage to the forests incident to furnishing the imperatively needed timber, it is hoped, will be kept as small as possible.

The regiment will be organized in units capable of handling all kinds of woods work and will include a number of portable sawmill outfits. It will be officered by trained foresters and expert lumbermen who are thoroughly familiar with producing and delivering lumber. It will carry complete equipment for all kinds of woods work. The classes of men desired comprise axemen, teamsters, tie-cutters, millwrights, saw-filers, sawyers, portable sawmill men, farriers, blacksmiths, lumberjacks, cooks and carpenters, as well as motorcycle and motor-truck operators. As rapidly as enlistments are secured, the men will be assembled at six central points, which have already been designated.

EXPEDITIONS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

A LETTER from Mr. H. C. Raven recounts the collection of many kinds of wild rats, shrews, bats, squirrels, etc., made in the East India Islands. The first shipment received at the National Museum included 319 mammals and about 300 birds. Mr. Raven recently explored the central part of Borneo, thence working southward by cart and pack train, and is now supposed to be in the southern part of the island. Another collection of miscellaneous matter just received from Mr. Raven includes ethnological specimens, mammals, birds, also reptiles, shells and insects.

Mr. Arthur deC. Sowerby, who has been exploring in China for the National Museum, has not been very successful owing to the conditions there, but managed to visit Shanghai and several places on the lower Yangtze. A

letter from him reports as follows: "My recent trip, to Che Kiang was brought to a summary close by the outbreak in that region. I could not get any transport and very nearly had my retreat cut off. Nothing can be done until the provinces have come to an agreement as to just how the government is to be run. There is only north Chili (a province of China) left to work in and I hope to go there in the autumn. China is in such an unsettled state that if it were not for the war in Europe it would be attracting everybody's attention. Conditions are no better than they were during the revolution of 1911."

Dr. W. L. Abbott, who has enabled the institution to take part in much field work during the past thirty years, and who is now financing the explorations of Mr. Raven, has made a short collecting trip to Santo Domingo. On this island, which was the scene of Dr. Abbott's earliest expedition, in 1883, he collected a number of mammals, birds, reptiles, mollusks, insects and Indian relics.

Mr. John B. Henderson, a regent of the Smithsonian Institution, has conducted a series of dredgings from his yacht *Eolis* off Key West, Florida. Owing to the exceptionally good weather conditions and to the fact that the Gulf Stream had receded much farther off shore than is usual, the party was enabled to carry on most successful operations upon the Pourtales Plateau. This is a strip of rocky bottom off the Florida Keys extending some forty or fifty miles and lying between the depths of 100 and 200 fathoms. It is one of the richest localities in American waters with a fauna peculiarly its own. The material collected covers all groups of marine invertebrates.

Dr. Paul Bartsch, of the National Museum staff, and Mr. John B. Henderson, also collected in Cuba, the Florida Keys, and in Florida, where marine invertebrates were secured by dredging. The Cerion Colonies composed of land mollusks from the Bahamas, planted some time ago by Dr. Bartsch in the Florida Keys, as an experiment to discover the effect of the environment, were examined. Observations and notes were also made on the birds seen on the islands visited.

APPROPRIATIONS OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION BOARD

THE General Education Board, disbursing moneys from the John D. Rockefeller Fund for the promotion of education, has announced annual appropriations amounting to $878,004. It is announced also that since the University of Chicago has raised $3,461,500 for its medical school, subscriptions of the General Education Board and of the Rockefeller Foundation, amounting to $2,000,000, become valid at once.

By a final gift of $350,000 to the Johns Hopkins Medical School the board announced that it had completed its contribution of $1,750,000 for full-time medical teaching in that institution. When the board announced the first of its gifts for the reorganization of the departments of medicine, surgery and pediatrics in Johns Hopkins, the total contributions were set at $1,400,000.

Aims of the board in making the gift were expressed then by the Rev. F. T. Gates, then chairman, in these words: "We think it important that the clinical subjects should be cultivated and taught by men freed from the distraction involved in earning their living through private practise. They will henceforth be in a position to do any service that either science or humanity demands." The fund thus completed is known as the William H. Welch Endowment for Clinical Education and Research.

In announcing the release of the money for the University of Chicago the board added that its policy was to "use its funds with a view to inducing others to cooperate toward the same ends. Thus its contributions for nearly all purposes are supplemented by other gifts secured through the cooperation of the General Education Board."

Annual appropriations to other funds and for other educational purposes as planned in former years were:

To Monmouth College, Monmouth, Ill., $60,000 toward a total of $250,000.

To Ottawa University, Ottawa, Kan., $100,000 toward a total of $400,000.

For professors of secondary education in state universities, $35,130.